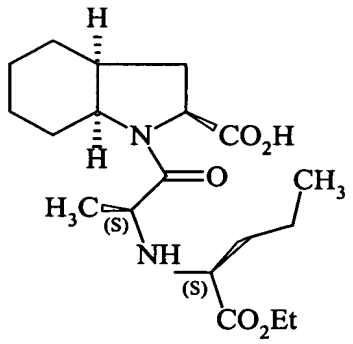
We claim :

12. A γ crystalline form of the compound of formula (I) :



. $tBuNH_2$ (I),

exhibiting essentially the following powder X-ray diffraction data, measured using a diffractometer (copper anticathode) and expressed in terms of inter-planar distance d, Bragg's angle 2 theta, intensity and relative intensity (expressed as a percentage with respect to the most intense ray) :

Angle 2 theta (°)	Inter-planar distance d (Å)	Intensity	Relative intensity (%)
6.298	14.02	630	39.8
7.480	11.81	380	24
8.700	10.16	1584	100
9.276	9.53	318	20.1
10.564	8.37	526	33.2
11.801	7.49	54	3.4
12.699	6.96	86	5.4
13.661	6.48	178	11.2
14.095	6.28	163	10.3
14.332	6.17	290	18.3
14.961	5.92	161	10.2
15.793	5.61	128	8.1
16.212	5.46	179	11.3
16.945	5.23	80	5.1
17.291	5.12	92	5.8
17.825	4.97	420	26.5

18.100	4.90	159	10
18.715	4.74	89	5.6
19.017	4.66	118	7.4
19.362	4.58	134	8.5
19.837	4.47	133	8.4
20.609	4.31	95	6
21.232	4.18	257	16.2
21.499	4.13	229	14.5
21.840	4.07	127	8
22.129	4.01	191	12.1
22.639	3.92	137	8.6
23.000	3.86	88	5.6
23.798	3.74	147	9.3
24.170	3.68	70	4.4
25.066	3.55	167	10.5
25.394	3.50	165	10.4
26.034	3.42	84	5.3
26.586	3.35	75	4.7
27.541	3.24	74	4.7
28.330	3.15	85	5.4
29.589	3.02	96	6.1

13. A process for the preparation of the γ crystalline form of the compound of claim 12, wherein a solution of perindopril tert-butylamine salt in chloroform is heated at reflux, the solution is then cooled to 0°C and the solid obtained is collected by filtration.

14. A process for the preparation of the γ crystalline form of the compound of claim 12, wherein a solution of perindopril tert-butylamine salt in ethyl acetate is heated at reflux, the solution is rapidly cooled, the solid thereby obtained is then collected by filtration, it is suspended in chloroform, the suspension is stirred at ambient temperature for 5 to 10 days, and the solid is then collected by filtration.

15. The process of claim 13, wherein the compound of formula (I) obtained by the preparation process described in patent specification EP 0 308 341 is used.

16. The process of claim 13, wherein the concentration of the compound of formula (I) in the chloroform is 150 to 300 g/litre.

17. The process of claim 14, wherein the compound of formula (I) obtained by the preparation process described in patent specification EP 0 308 341 is used.

18. The process according to claim 14, wherein the concentration of the compound of formula (I) in the ethyl acetate is 70 to 90 g/litre.

19. A method of treating a living animal body afflicted with a condition requiring an inhibitor of angiotensin I converting enzyme, comprising the step of administering to the living animal body an amount of the compound of claim 12 which is effective for alleviation of the condition.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as active principle, an effective amount of the compound of claim 12, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or vehicles.

21. A method of treating a living animal body afflicted with a cardiovascular disease, comprising the step of administering to the living animal body an amount of the compound of claim 12 which is effective for alleviation of the condition.

22. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20, which also comprises a diuretic.

23. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 22, wherein the diuretic is indapamide.